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Race for at-large city seat getting hot

ELIZABETH STEWART
 lib.kmherald@gmail.com

A three-man race developed this week for the at-Large seat on city council up for grabs in the Nov. 8 municipal election.

Councilman Houston Corn, completing his eighth year on city council, is retiring from politics, he told the Herald last week. Corn, who retired as KM Chief of Police in 2002, said he's enjoyed his service on the board but he's ready for discretionary "time out" and enjoy his grandchildren.

Keith Miller, 50, of 102 Jason Dr., Jerry Mullinax, 71, of 210 Cleveland Ave., and Roy (Butch) Pearson, 50, of 112 N. Piedmont Ave., filed this week with the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

"I'm coming back after a two year absence on the board because I love Kings Mountain and I have always strived to represent the people," said Mullinax, who served 10 years on city council, six years as councilman from Ward II and four years as councilman from Ward III. Manager for 10 years of the 41 unit BattleForest Apartments on Cleveland Avenue and the eight unit Mary Leigh's Cottages on North Goforth Street, Mullinax also works part time at Greene Funeral Service in Gastonia. For five years he was the host of a gospel music program on WKMT Radio. He is a veteran of the US Army, 1958-60, and a Kings Mountain native, son of the late Carl and Jeanette Mullinax. He is a volunteer at Kings Mountain Hospice House.

Said Miller in a filing statement, "I am making myself available to serve the people of Kings Mountain. I presently serve in a number of roles and routinely communicate with the mayor, council members, board members and department heads about ways to improve the city." He added, "I have skill sets and knowledge that can benefit the city and its citizens and whether or not I am elected I will continue to do what I can to improve the city, and if elected would have more influence on policy and budget matters and can officially represent the city at functions, inter-government meetings and on economic development and recruitment missions." Miller served on city council from 2005-2007 and has served for a number of years on both the city planning board and board of adjustment. He is currently vice chairman of both boards. He holds a degree in political science and graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA, summa cum laude and was a member of the National Collegiate Political Honor Society. He is currently enrolled in a Masters in Public Administration degree program. He and his wife, Julie, have three children and are active in First Baptist Church.

See RACE, 6A



KEITH MILLER



JERRY MULLINAX



BUTCH PEARSON

What's our water worth?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Herald looks at the history, current status and future of our water supply in this four-part series.

Part 3 of 4

EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

The City of Kings Mountain's water source was drying up in the 1960's. The two city lakes just weren't producing enough to satiate Kings Mountain's growing thirst.

A four-year-long drought made the situation more dire. The city and the Army Corps of Engineers tapped into a well in an old abandoned gold mine shaft for emergency relief.

Getting Moss Lake was a definite challenge fraught with hurdles, but the city needed it. Then the county came to want it. Many others have sought its nectar over the years.

In January 1969, the (now) late Mayor John Henry Moss was quoted as saying, "It's been 30 months since we launched this project. Its fruition will transform the landscape in this area industrially, commercially, recreationally and residentially."

He was right.

The city, the county, neighboring municipalities and scores of others have soaked in the benefits of Moss Lake. Its water is sold to 4,651 households and industries, which brought in more than half-a-million dollars in profit to the city last year. Its shores are lined with scenic lakefront properties and spacious homes...and Woodbridge Golf Club - on land that became a paradise for developers.

See BANKING, 6A

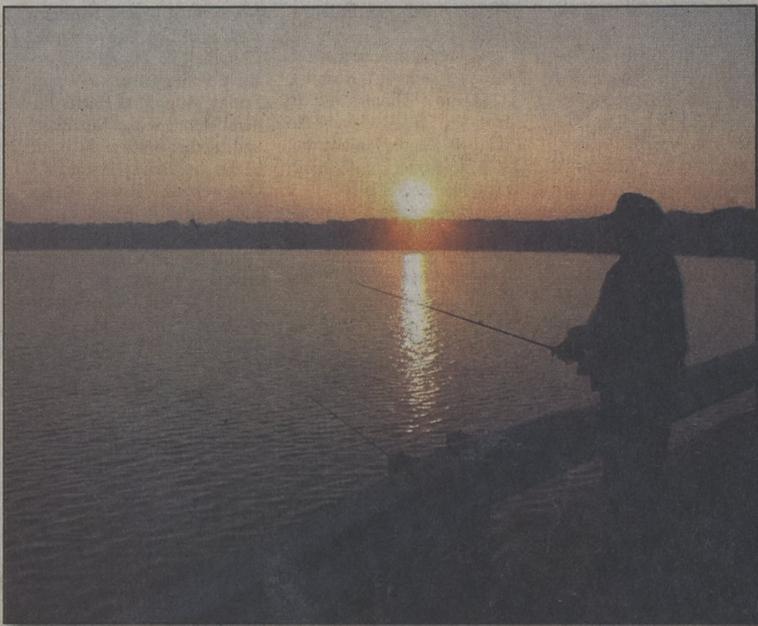


Photo by ELLIS NOELL

Moss Lake at sunrise.

Quenching Our Thirst for WATER

A crystal clear stream gave birth to a gold rush in Kings Mountain. Now the water itself is gold and Moss Lake is the gold mine. Over the next four weeks we'll look at this potent resource and how it affects how we work, play and live. This week... Moss Lake has become a rich resource. Next week...



Crystal-balling into the future.



This alleyway across from Stevo's Bar, which runs from Mountain Street to the back of Wachovia, may be in for some changes. Design ideas include the possibility of a mural on the wall to the right, pedestrian-friendly lighting, potted plants and a mosaic or mural on the monoliths in the background.

A North end for the arts

EDITOR'S NOTE: In this four-part series, The Herald is looking at the Mountaineer Partnership's Design Committee proposals to revamp the pedestrian spaces and pocket parks that line the backs of businesses from Gold Street to Wachovia. This week, the "North End" painted with possibilities.

Part 2 of 4

EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

Bernice Chappell, president of the Southern Arts Society, and Camille Bradshaw, vice president, presented to members of the Southern Arts Society Wednesday night plans for an arts-sponsored alleyway downtown. Chappell said the members were "excited".

Chappell and Bradshaw, both serving on the design committee of Mountaineer Partnership, presented improvement plans to what is coined the "North End" of pedestrian spaces that was first unveiled at a recent MPI downtown Design Summit. The summit focused on design upgrades to the city's back alleyways of Battleground Avenue businesses stretching from Gold Street to King Street.

Design projects are broken down into three phases nicknamed the "South End", "Center Site" and "North End". There have been a couple of conflicting design ideas for the city's "North End" in recent weeks.

Local artist and recent re-commissioned mural committee chairman for the city Shirley Brutko has suggested murals be painted on the monoliths behind Wachovia bank. Another local artist, Jewel Reavis, has suggested the monoliths sport mosaics. Both have special artists in mind that could tackle either challenge.

The brick monoliths, which would form a hexagon were they pieced together, stand as an interesting design challenge to developers.

City leaders have mulled over design ideas, all of which may bring new character and life to an alleyway pedestrians may some day enjoy. Right now, however, the space is less than enjoyable...less than pleasing to the eye. With the support of the city and downtown property owners, the Mountaineer Partnership hopes to change that.

The "North End" which may soon carry its own distinction with monickers such as "Artists' Row", "Artists' Way" or "Park of the Arts", will be capped at two ends with decorative archways yet to be named.

The committee has mentioned the possibility of incorporating a mural on the side of a building that runs the length of the alleyway. The building is occupied by Friendly Billiards.

Potted plants and pedestrian-friendly lights may also line the corridor. But perhaps one of the most unique features planned for the alleyway is an open space for the arts.

See DESIGNING, 5A

Huntin' wabbits?



KYRA TURNER/HERALD

Myrtle Mae (Danah McKinney) and Veta Mae (Jill Heafner) cringe as Elwood (Jim Champion) introduces his friend Harvey to Aunt Ethel Chauvenet (Punkin Higginbotham).

Have you met my friend?

'Harvey' starts

Friday at
 Joy Theatre

Back by popular demand, the Kings Mountain Little Theatre will present the heartfelt comedy "HARVEY" by Mary Chase on August 5, 6, 12, and 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Joy Performance Center. A matinee is scheduled for Sunday, August 7th at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens. Teresa Williams is the director and the production is sponsored by Harris Funeral Home. The show will be presented with special permission from Dramatists Play Service. KMLT is a

See HARVEY, 6A



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